



Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project

State Clearinghouse #2005061171



To: Readers of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

From: Jeffrey Vail, Forest Supervisor, USDA Forest Service
Matt Knudson, Palmdale Water District, Assistant General Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability, Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project

Date: May 6, 2016

The U.S. Department of the Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, as Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Palmdale Water District, as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, are seeking public comment on a joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR) for consideration of the Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project.

Proposed Action/Project. The proposed action is to construct a concrete grade control structure within Littlerock Reservoir, haul sediment from behind the dam to nearby quarry sites, and maintain the storage capacity through annual sediment removal. The US Forest Service would approve the project on National Forest System lands by issuing an amendment to the existing Special Use Permit for Littlerock Dam and Reservoir. The project would restore the Littlerock Reservoir to 1992 water storage and flood control capacity and preserve habitat for the arroyo toad by preventing sediment loss and headcutting of the stream channel. The Draft EIS/EIR describes the proposed action and evaluates and describes the environmental impacts associated with construction and operation, identifies those impacts that could be adverse, and presents mitigation measures, which, if adopted by the Forest Service, Palmdale Water District, or other responsible agencies, would avoid or minimize those impacts. The Draft EIS/EIR has determined that the proposed action or alternatives may cause significant impacts to the following resources: air quality, traffic, and recreation and land use. The Draft EIS/EIR also evaluates alternatives to the proposed action; these alternatives include the following:

- *Alternative 1: Reduced Sediment Removal Intensity Alternative.* This alternative would reduce the intensity of proposed construction activities (e.g., amount of annual sediment removed, number of daily truck trips) through an extension of the construction schedule.
- *Alternative 2: No Action/No Project Alternative.* This alternative would not alter the existing conditions at the Reservoir. No grade control construction or sediment removal would occur. The Reservoir would eventually be filled with sediment and the Little Rock Creek stream flow would not be impounded. Continued sediment deposition could also compromise the long-term integrity of the Dam, requiring removal.

Availability of Draft EIS/EIR. The Draft EIS/EIR will be available for review at the following four locations:

**USFS, Angeles National Forest
Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District**
33708 Crown Valley Road
Acton, CA 93510
(661) 296-2808
Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(Monday through Friday)

**Angeles National Forest
Supervisor's Office**
701 N Santa Anita Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91006
(626) 574-1613
Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(Monday through Friday)

Palmdale Water District

2029 East Avenue Q
Palmdale, CA 93550
(661) 947-4111
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Monday through Friday)

Littlerock Library

35119 80th Street East
Littlerock, CA 93543
(661) 944-4138
Hours: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (M-T)
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (W-Sat)

Copies of the Draft EIS/EIR on CD or a separately bound Executive Summary may be requested by e-mail at LSRP@aspenerg.com. An electronic copy of the Draft EIS/EIR, and the latest project updates and information, are available for review on the Palmdale Water District's Project website at: <http://www.palmdalewater.org/about/new-development-projects/district-projects/> or at the USDA Forest Service website at: http://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_project_exp.php?project=13657.

Written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR. Written comments will be accepted for 45 days following the date that a Notice of Availability is published in the **Federal Register**. The expected dates for the comment period are May 6 –June 20, 2016.

The Forest Service decision for the portion of the project occurring on National Forest System lands is subject to administrative review by the Forest Service Regional Office, in accordance with 36 CFR 218. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments during a public comment period are eligible to request this administrative review. Please see the legal notice posted to the websites above, or contact the Forest Service for specific questions on commenting and administrative reviews.

Written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR should be sent to:

USDA Forest Service/ Palmdale Water District

c/o Aspen Environmental Group
5020 Chesebro Road, Suite 200
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
E-mail: LSRP@aspenerg.com

Comments may also be submitted at the public meeting, or hand delivered during normal business hours to the offices listed above.

Public Meeting. The Forest Service and Palmdale Water District will hold a Draft EIS/EIR public meeting on May 19, 2016. The public meeting is an opportunity for interested parties to receive information, ask questions and share concerns, or provide written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR. The meeting will be open-house format with project documents and information available, and staff from each lead agency present. Only written comments will be accepted at the meeting. Details on the public meeting are as follows:

Draft EIS/EIR Public Meeting	
Location	Palmdale Water District, Board Room
Date	May 19, 2016
Time	6 pm to 9 pm
Address	2029 East Avenue Q Palmdale, CA 93550